

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 36, 38-69 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 36, 38-61 is the inclusion of the limitation of a controller for controlling at least the gas supplying means to operate in at least two modes, including: a degassing mode wherein the pressure in the container is at a degassing pressure and wherein the gas supplying means is controlled to supply the gas at a pressure above the degassing pressure to bubble through the ink; and an ink supplying mode wherein the pressure in the container is at an ink delivery pressure. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 62-69 is the inclusion of the method step of controlling the inkjet device between two modes of operation, including: a degassing mode, in which the pressure in the container is at a degassing pressure and gas is supplied by gas supplying means at a pressure above the degassing pressure to bubble through the ink in the container; and an ink supplying mode, in which the pressure in the container is at an ink delivery pressure when the device is supplying ink to the print head. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the

combination, that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON S. UHLENHAKE whose telephone number is (571)272-5916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JASON S UHLENHAKE/
Examiner, Art Unit 2853
October 16, 2008

/Julian D. Huffman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2853